

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1.-38. (Cancelled)

39. (New) A test strip for conducting testing on a bodily fluid, comprising: a strip body defining a capillary test chamber including a test reagent, said strip body having an outer edge defining a sample application port in fluid communication with said capillary test chamber, said strip body including a visualization portion overlying at least a portion of said capillary test chamber and formed of a material permitting visualization of the bodily fluid as the bodily fluid is introduced through said at least a portion of said capillary test chamber, said strip body including an opaque portion positioned generally about said at least a portion of said capillary test chamber.

40. (New) The test strip of claim 39, wherein said material comprises a transparent material.

41. (New) The test strip of claim 39, wherein said material comprises a translucent material.

42. (New) The test strip of claim 39, wherein said opaque portion is colored to provide a visible contrast with the bodily fluid.

43. (New) The test strip of claim 39, wherein said opaque portion extends along a length of said capillary test chamber.

44. (New) The test strip of claim 43, wherein said opaque portion extends from said edge of said strip body and along opposite sides of said capillary test chamber.

45. (New) The test strip of claim 39, wherein said opaque portion extends across a width of said capillary test chamber.

46. (New) The test strip of claim 39, wherein said opaque portion is generally aligned with edges of said capillary test chamber.

47. (New) The test strip of claim 39, wherein said visualization portion extends inwardly from said outer edge of said strip body to permit visualization of the bodily fluid being introduced through said sample application portion and into said capillary test chamber.

48. (New) The test strip of claim 39, wherein said opaque portion is contiguous with said visualization portion.

49. (New) The test strip of claim 39, wherein said opaque portion defines a fill line extending across a width of said capillary test chamber to provide a visual indication of sufficient dosage of said capillary test chamber with the bodily fluid.

50. (New) The test strip of claim 39, wherein said strip body defines a vent hole communicating with said capillary test chamber.

51. (New) The test strip of claim 39, wherein said strip body includes a hydrophilic surface defining at least a portion of said capillary test chamber.

52. (New) The test strip of claim 39, further comprising at least two conductive tracks exposed to said capillary test chamber.

53. (New) The test strip of claim 39, wherein said strip body includes a first substrate, a second substrate defining an opening therethrough, and a cover defining said visualization portion; and

wherein said second substrate is positioned intermediate said first substrate and said cover to form said capillary test chamber defined by edges of said opening and opposing surfaces of said first substrate and said cover, said opening extending to an outer edge of said second substrate to define said sample application port.

54. (New) The test strip of claim 53, wherein said cover defines said opaque portion.

55. (New) A test strip for conducting testing on a bodily fluid, comprising: a strip body defining a capillary test chamber including a test reagent, said strip body having an outer edge defining a sample application port in fluid communication with said capillary test chamber, said strip body including a visualization portion overlying at least a portion of said capillary test chamber and formed of a material permitting visualization of the bodily fluid as the bodily fluid is introduced through said at least a portion of said capillary test chamber, said strip body including an opaque portion forming a boundary extending from said outer edge of said strip body and generally along said at least a portion of said capillary test chamber.

56. (New) The test strip of claim 55, wherein said material comprises a transparent material.

57. (New) The test strip of claim 55, wherein said material comprises a translucent material.

58. (New) The test strip of claim 55, wherein said opaque portion is colored to provide a visible contrast with the bodily fluid.

59. (New) The test strip of claim 55, wherein said opaque portion extends along a length of said capillary test chamber.

60. (New) The test strip of claim 59, wherein said opaque portion extends along opposite sides of said capillary test chamber.

61. (New) The test strip of claim 60, wherein said opaque portion extends across a width of said capillary test chamber.

62. (New) The test strip of claim 55, wherein said opaque portion is generally aligned with edges of said capillary test chamber.

63. (New) The test strip of claim 55, wherein said visualization portion extends inwardly from said outer edge of said strip body to permit visualization of the bodily fluid being introduced through said sample application portion and into said capillary test chamber.

64. (New) The test strip of claim 55, wherein said visualization portion is configured to overlie at least about 75% of a width of said capillary test chamber.

65. (New) The test strip of claim 55, wherein said opaque portion defines a fill line extending across said capillary test chamber to provide a visual indication of sufficient dosage of said capillary test chamber with the bodily fluid.

66. (New) The test strip of claim 55, wherein said strip body defines a vent hole communicating with said capillary test chamber.

67. (New) The test strip of claim 55, further comprising at least two conductive tracks exposed to said capillary test chamber.

68. (New) The test strip of claim 55, wherein said opaque portion is contiguous with said visualization portion.

69. (New) The test strip of claim 55, wherein said strip body includes a first substrate, a second substrate defining an opening therethrough, and a cover defining said visualization portion; and

wherein said second substrate is positioned intermediate said first substrate and said cover to form said capillary test chamber defined by edges of said opening and opposing surfaces of said first substrate and said cover, said opening extending to an edge of said second substrate to define said sample application port.

70. (New) A test strip for conducting testing on a bodily fluid, comprising: a strip body including a first substrate, a second substrate defining an opening extending therethrough, and a cover, said second substrate positioned intermediate said first substrate and said cover to form a capillary test chamber defined by edges of said opening and opposing surfaces of said first substrate and said cover, said capillary test chamber including a test reagent, said cover including a visualization portion overlying at least a portion of said opening in said second substrate and formed of a material permitting visualization of the bodily fluid as the bodily fluid is introduced through said capillary test chamber, said strip body including an opaque portion extending generally about said at least a portion of said opening.

71. (New) The test strip of claim 70, wherein said material comprises a transparent material.

72. (New) The test strip of claim 70, wherein said material comprises a translucent material.

73. (New) The test strip of claim 70, wherein said opaque portion is colored to provide a visible contrast with the bodily fluid.

74. (New) The test strip of claim 70, wherein said opaque portion extends along a length of said capillary test chamber.

75. (New) The test strip of claim 70, wherein said opaque portion extends from an outer edge of said strip body and along opposite sides of said capillary test chamber.

76. (New) The test strip of claim 70, wherein said opaque portion extends across a width of said capillary test chamber.

77. (New) The test strip of claim 70, wherein said cover defines said opaque portion.

78. (New) The test strip of claim 70, wherein said opening extends to an edge of said second substrate to define a sample application port in fluid communication with said capillary test chamber, said visualization portion and said opaque portion extending inwardly from said edge of said second substrate to permit visualization of the bodily fluid being introduced through said sample application portion and into said capillary test chamber.

79. (New) The test strip of claim 70, wherein said strip body defines a vent hole communicating with said capillary test chamber.

80. (New) The test strip of claim 70, further comprising at least two conductive tracks exposed to said capillary test chamber.

81. (New) A test strip for conducting testing on a bodily fluid, comprising: a strip body defining a test chamber including a test reagent, said strip body having an outer edge defining a sample application port in fluid communication with said capillary test chamber, said strip body including a visualization portion positioned adjacent at least a portion of said capillary test chamber and formed of a material permitting visualization of the bodily fluid as the bodily fluid is introduced through said at least a portion of said capillary test chamber, said strip body including an opaque portion contiguous with said visualization portion and positioned about said at least a portion of said capillary test chamber.

82. (New) The test strip of claim 81, wherein said material comprises a transparent material.

83. (New) The test strip of claim 81, wherein said material comprises a translucent material.

84. (New) The test strip of claim 81, wherein said opaque portion is colored to provide a visible contrast with the bodily fluid.

85. (New) The test strip of claim 81, wherein said opaque portion extends along a

length of said capillary test chamber.

86. (New) The test strip of claim 85, wherein said opaque portion extends from said edge of said strip body and along opposite sides of said capillary test chamber.

87. (New) The test strip of claim 81, wherein said opaque portion is generally aligned with edges of said capillary test chamber.

88. (New) The test strip of claim 81, wherein said visualization portion extends inwardly from said outer edge of said strip body to permit visualization of the bodily fluid being introduced through said sample application portion and into said capillary test chamber.

89. (New) The test strip of claim 81, further comprising at least two conductive tracks exposed to said capillary test chamber.

90. (New) The test strip of claim 89, wherein said strip body includes a first substrate with said at least two electrically conductive tracks attached thereto, a second substrate attached to said first substrate and having an opening extending therethrough to form said capillary test chamber, said capillary test chamber overlying a portion of said at least two electrically conductive tracks, said second substrate defining said sample application port.

91. (New) The test strip of claim 90, wherein said visualization portion is generally aligned with said opening in said second substrate.

92. (New) The test strip of claim 81, wherein said outer edge is indented adjacent said sample application port to provide for tactile identification of said sample application port.

93. (New) A test strip for conducting testing on a bodily fluid, comprising: a strip body defining a capillary test chamber including a test reagent, said strip body having an outer edge defining a sample application port in fluid communication with said capillary test chamber, said strip body including a visualization portion positioned adjacent at

least a portion of said capillary test chamber and formed of a material permitting visualization of the bodily fluid as the bodily fluid is introduced through said at least a portion of said capillary test chamber, said strip body including an opaque portion forming a boundary extending about said visualization portion.

94. (New) The test strip of claim 93, wherein said material comprises a transparent material.

95. (New) The test strip of claim 93, wherein said material comprises a translucent material.

96. (New) The test strip of claim 93, wherein said opaque portion is colored to provide a visible contrast with the bodily fluid.

97. (New) The test strip of claim 93, wherein said opaque portion extends along a length of said capillary test chamber.

98. (New) The test strip of claim 93, wherein said opaque portion extends along opposite sides of said capillary test chamber.

99. (New) The test strip of claim 93, wherein said opaque portion is contiguous with said visualization portion.

100. (New) The test strip of claim 93, further comprising at least two conductive tracks exposed to said capillary test chamber.

101. (New) The test strip of claim 100, wherein said strip body includes a first substrate with said at least two electrically conductive tracks attached thereto, a second substrate attached to said first substrate and having an opening extending therethrough to form said capillary test chamber, said capillary test chamber overlying a portion of said at least two electrically conductive tracks, said second substrate defining said sample application port.

102. (New) The test strip of claim 101, wherein said visualization portion is generally aligned with said opening in said second substrate.

103. (New) The test strip of claim 93, wherein said outer edge is indented adjacent said sample application port to provide for tactile identification of said sample application port.